

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6460

BILL NUMBER: SB 150

DATE PREPARED: Jan 23, 2002

BILL AMENDED: Jan 22, 2002

SUBJECT: Various Election Law Changes.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chris Baker

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill has the following provisions:

(A) Establishes a procedure for a member of a county election board to file a protest with the State Election Commission when an election ballot does not comply with the requirements of IC 3-11-2 or is otherwise not in the form required by law.

(B) Requires that nominees be listed on a general election ballot in type with uniform capital letters and with uniform space between each name.

(C) Provides that a county election board may establish the number of voters a precinct may contain that permits the precinct to have its polls located at the same location as another precinct.

(D) Repeals a provision establishing a board of registration in each county having a population of more than 125,000.

Effective Date: Upon Passage; July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (A) The Indiana Election Commission would be required to investigate petitions by members of the county election board if the required specifications as provided in the bill are not met with respect to the printing of ballots. The amount of potential expenditures involved with this provision would depend on the extensiveness of any investigations and hearings that could result.

Based on past experience of the Election Commission, any hearings required for possible violations of election law have been treated similarly to standard meetings of the Commission with respect to expenditures. Typically, the Commission members will receive standard per diem, and the Commission may incur minimal costs related to the transcriptions of Commission meetings.

For expenditures related to investigations, it has been the experience of the Election Commission for the parties involved in a deposition to cover the costs, including payment of a court reporter to record and any witness fees accrued, such as mileage for travel. With more complex investigations, site visits could be required which would incur further expenditures related to travel and possible overnight accommodations. The Election Commission, to date, has not experienced an investigation which has required significant expenditures.

(B) Additional expenditure would be required if more paper and/or printing for ballots is required to carry out this provision.

Explanation of State Revenues: (A) Additional minimal expenditure could result if a county election board files a petition with the Indiana Election Commission. The precise impact would depend on local action.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) (B) Additional expenditure would be required if more paper and/or printing for ballots is required to carry out this provision.

(C) The impact of this provision would depend on local action. If more precincts were allowed to combine, by ordinance, several expenditure savings could occur. Fewer precinct election officers would be required which would reduce the amount of per diem paid by the county to precinct election officers. Combining precincts could allow better efficiency with respect to voting equipment, as a county may not require as many voting machines, which could reduce the cost for new purchases of machines and/or the printing of ballots. A precinct has the following election officers:

Type of Officer	Number
Inspector	1
Judge	2
Poll Clerk	2
Sheriff	2
Asst. Poll Clerk	2 (Optional)

As of the last general election in 2000, there were 5,530 official precincts in Indiana.

(D) Counties that meet the above population requirements would have the option of eliminating their boards of voter registration. If the resources were not reassigned, unused resources could be terminated.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Commission, Indiana Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: County Election Board; Circuit Court Clerk; Board of Voter Registration.

Information Sources: Kristi Robertson, Co-General Counsel, Indiana Election Division, (317) 232-3939.